

A NEW PICULET FROM SOUTHEASTERN PERU

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ABSTRACT: A new species of *Picumnus* from southeastern Peru is described and named *Picumnus subtilis*. The relationships of *Picumnus subtilis* and *Picumnus castelnaui* are discussed.

During a revisional study of the neotropical pygmy woodpeckers of the genus *Picumnus*, an undescribed species has been found and, in anticipation of the complete revision of this genus, is named as follows:

Picumnus subtilis, new species

Holotype: Adult male, Figs. 1-2, collected at Hacienda Villacarmen, Department of Cuzco, S. E. Peru, at an elevation of 1000 meters (3280 ft), July 9, 1958, by Emmet R. Blake. FMNH 251769.

Diagnosis: Closely resembles and previously confused with *Picumnus castelnaui* of northern and central Peru. Is readily distinguished from this species, however, by possession of distinct white spotting on the crown and nape and by the presence of barring on the chest. These characters are in direct contrast to the immaculate crown and chest of *Picumnus castelnaui*.

Description of Type: (Capitalized color terms are those of Ridgway, 1912.) Crown and nape deep black with each feather tipped with white or Orange Chrome. Feathers tipped with Orange Chrome extend from nasal area posteriorly for at least two-thirds of crown, with the amount of Orange Chrome tipping increasing posteriorly. Deep black feathers of the nape tipped with a circular dot of pure white. Lateral feathers of crown tipped with smaller dots of white, with a concentration of white dots above the eye, forming a small supraocular stripe. Entire back, rump and shoulders Yellowish Olive. Each feather double barred with Olive Yellow, imparting a pattern of faint barring to the dorsum. Primaries, secondaries and tertiaries Fuscous Brown with outer edge of secondaries and coverts Olive Yellow. Chin and throat dull white. Feathers of breast gray, barred and tipped with Straw Yellow. Proximal halves of abdominal feathers gray with distal halves heavily washed with Straw Yellow. Upper tail coverts barred like the back; undertail coverts Straw Yellow like the abdomen; tail black with middle pair of rectrices clear white on inner webs; underwing coverts and axillaries Straw Yellow. Wing, 50.0 mm; tail, 26.5 mm; culmen, 13.0 mm.

Measurements: Total of 12 specimens, including holotype. Adult males (7), wing 50.0-55.0 mm (average 51.9 mm); tail 25.0-29.0 mm (average 26.7 mm); culmen 12.0-14.5 mm (average 13.0 mm). Adult females (1), wing 52.0 mm; tail 27.0 mm; culmen 12.5 mm. Immatures (3 ♀♀, 1 ?), wing 50.0-

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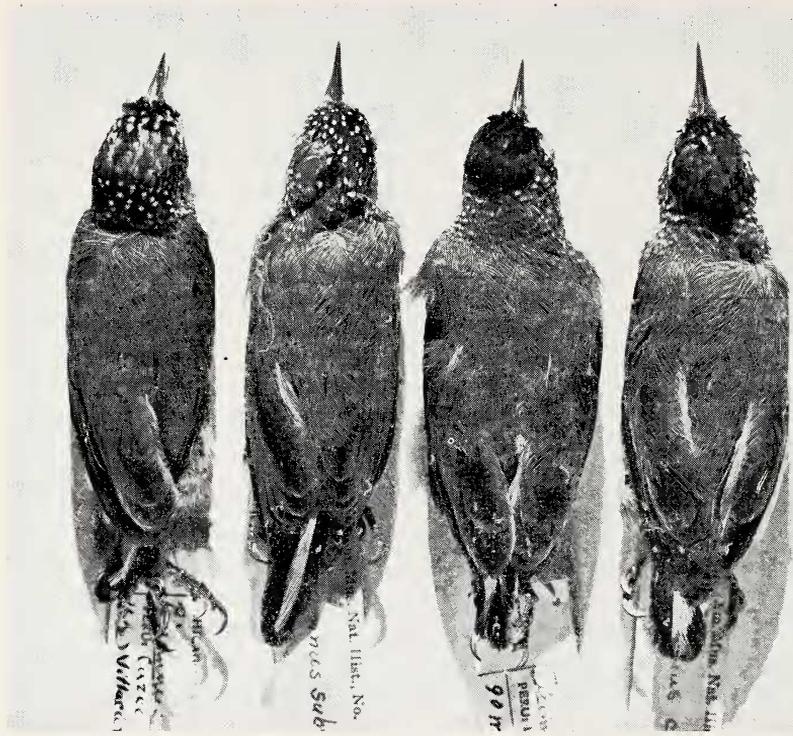


Figure 1. Dorsal view of *Picumnus subtilis* sp. nov. and *Picumnus castelnau*. From left to right, ♂ *P. subtilis* (type), ♀ *P. subtilis*, ♀ *P. castelnau*, and ♂ *P. castelnau*.

54.0 mm (average 51.6 mm); tail 24.0-27.0 mm (average 25.9 mm); culmen 12.0 mm.

Range: Known from a total of 12 specimens from the tropical foothills (Yungas) of east central Peru (Santa Rosa, upper Rio Ucayali, Dept. of Loreto, 200 m elev.) to southeastern Peru (Hacienda Villacarmen and Hacienda Cadena, Dept. of Cuzco, 1000 m elev. and Candamo, Dept. of Puno, 302 m elev.).

Remarks: Since the collection of the first specimen of this new piculet by H. Watkins at Candamo, Dept. of Puno, Peru, in 1916, its identity has remained obscure because of the tendency of workers to assign it to the species *Picumnus castelnau*, which it superficially resembles. The spotting of the crown and the barring of the chest of *P. subtilis*, however, immediately distinguish it from the latter (see Figs. 1 and 2). Despite the superficial resemblance to *P. castelnau* mentioned above, it is believed that this new piculet shows a definite affinity for the spot-crowned piculets rather than the immaculate



Figure 2. Ventral view of *Picumnus subtilis* sp. nov. and *Picumnus castelnaui*. From left to right, ♂ *P. subtilis* (type), ♀ *P. subtilis*, ♀ *P. castelnaui*, and ♀ *P. castelnaui*.

crowned group consisting of *P. castelnaui* and *P. fuscus*. At present *P. subtilis* and *P. castelnaui* are known to be sympatric only in the area of the upper Rio Ucayali near its confluence with the Rio Urubamba. In the area of its greatest known abundance, in southeastern Peru, *P. subtilis* shares an area of sympatry with *Picumnus aurifrons*.

The type locality, Hacienda Villacarmen (12° 51' S, 71° 15' W), is described by E. R. Blake as "—lying just within the Dept. of Cuzco, being separated from the Dept. of Madre de Dios by the Rio Piña Piña, a minor tributary of the Rio Alto Madre de Dios—on the road from Cuzco to Manu." (pers. comm.)

The subtle yet distinct differences between *Picumnus castelnaui* and this new piculet make the specific name *subtilis* seem appropriate.

Specimens Examined: (Holotype and 11 paratypes) American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), 6 (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 3 imm.), Santa Rosa, upper Rio Ucayali, Department of Loreto, Peru; Candamo, Department of Puno, Peru.

Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH), 2 ♂♂, Hacienda Villacarmen, Department of Cuzco, Peru (holotype) and Hacienda Cadena, Department of Cuzco, Peru. Peabody Museum of Yale University (PMYU), 4 (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ imm.), Hacienda Cadena, Department of Cuzco, Peru.

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SUMMARIO

En un estudio de revision de los pequeños Pájaros Carpinteros del genero *Picumnus* de Centro y Sur America se encontró una especie nó descrita en especimens de la región sur-este del Perú.

Esta nueva especie ha sido nombrada *Picumnus subtilis*, y es superficialmente parecida a *Picumnus castelnau*, aunque no están cercanamente relacionadas. El macho y la hembra de *P. castelnau* presentan crestas sin manchas, mientras que tanto el macho como la hembra de *P. subtilis* tienen manchas blancas en la cresta. *P. subtilis* fue identificada estudiando 12 especimens, incluyendo el holotipo.

LITERATURE CITED

RIDGWAY, ROBERT. 1912. Color standards and color nomenclature. Washington, D. C., 1-44, pls. 1-53.

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